

Tents, O Israel¹" It suggests that the Webbs were not in any very hopeful or active sympathy with the efforts at this juncture being made by Keir Hardie, and backed by John Burns and Tom Mann, to use the I L P as the fulcrum for the foundation of a definitely political Trade Union Labour Party

These efforts, in 1894, gained at least so much of success that a Socialist resolution was passed by the Trade Union Congress, in that year In 1895, however, at Cardiff, the other side re-asserted itself, and a resolution was passed excluding from Trade Union delegacy all sal\e persons either actually working at trade or paid officials of their Union—a decision which shut out, and was meant to shut out, M P ^s like Keir Hardie and John Burns, if it also operated to exclude the arch reactionary (on this point) Henry Broadhurst In 1896, at Edinburgh, worse befell* the Socialist resolution was rescinded, the tide seemed to be running hard against Independent Labourism Under the surface, ho\vever, its course was different In 1898, the success of the German Social Democratic Party in getting no fewer than fifty Socialist members returned to the Reichstag, with a vote behind them that had jumped from 100,000 in 1891 to over 3,000,000, was a clarion call to British Socialists As such, it was heard in September 1899 the Plymouth Congress decided to call a Special Conference of all Trade Unions, Co-operative and Socialist Societies and other working-class organisations, to

"devise ways and means for the securing of an increased number of Labour M P 's in the next parliament "

This sounded innocuous enough, but Keir Hardie and his associates were determined to drive their advantage home, and knew how to do it The Fabian representatives at the Special Conference, Bernard Shaw and Edward Pease, supported him, staunchly Indeed, Edward Pease was a